

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DHAHRA 00534 101316Z

ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 EB-07 DODE-00 /028 W

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P R 101205Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY

RUQMRKGXAMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY 7555

CAMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY 1180

AMEMBASSY MANANTWRIRORITY

USLO RIYADH PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 5411

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0534

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, 8, TC, BA, SA

SUBJECT: GULF TOUR BY AMERICAN JOURNALISTS

REF: ABU DHABI 1239

1. ARAMCO VICEPRESIDENT FAISAL L. BASSAM INFORMS US THAT THE LATTER PORTION OF THE SCHEDULE FOR THE VISITING AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IS NOW UNCERTAIN AS RESULT OF DEATH YENTERDAY OF ABU DHABI RULER-# BROMYER. THE GROUP OF EIGHT REPORTERS MAY ALSO DWINDLE TO GROUP OF FOUR WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS BECAUSE OF URGENT DEMANDS FCOM THEIR PUBLICATIONS TO COVER EVENTS ELSEWHERE.

2. ACCORDING TO AL-BASS, THE GROUP HAD A VUFH SUCCESSFUL DAY YESTERDAY, MAY, INCLUDING MEETIVG WITH SAG MINISTERC OF INFORMATION FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ENERGY AND ELECTRICITY, PLANNING, FINANCE AND HEAD OF SAUDI ARABIAN MONETARY AGENCY.
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GROUP IS TO SEE CROWN PRINCE AND PETROLEUM MINISTER YAMANI TODAY BEFORE DEPARTING FOR DHAHRAN. MAY 11 IS A FULL DAY IN DHAHRAN INCLUDING AERIAL TOUR OF ARAMCO FACILITIES, BRIEFING BY ARAMCO MANAGEMENT, TOUR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM AND MINERALS, AND A DINNER BY ARAMCO CHAIRMAN JUNGERS. ON MAY GROUP PLANS AERIAL TOUR OF THE RUB' AL KHALI BEFORE FLYING TO BAHRAIN FOR

LUCH HOSTED BY MINISTER OF INFORMATION. THAT AFTERNOON THE GROUP IS TO BE BRIEFED BY YUSEF SHIRAWI AND GIVEN A TOUR OF BAHRAIN FOLLOWED BY A SOCIAL EVENT IN THE EVENING. THE FOLLOWING MORNING, HLA 13, GROUP IS TO CALL ON THE AMIR BEFORE FLYING IN THE AFTERNOON TO KUWAIT. IT PUAT THIS POINT WHEN GROUP MAY DWINDLE TO FOURTUNLESS ARAMC DJND WE ARE ABLE TO CONVINCE THEM TO COMPLETE THE TOUR.

3. ARAMCO IS CABLING ABU DHABI MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR ADVICE ABOUT FEASIBILITY OF VPZITING THE EMIRATES DURING THIS SEVEN-DAY MOURNING PERIOD. IF IT APPEARS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE ENOUGH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS, THE GROUP MAY BY-IGSS ABU DHABI AND FLY DIRECTLY TO QATAR ON MAY 15 INSTEAD OF ARRIVING IN DOHA ON MAY 17 AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. DOHA WILRYLE THE LAST STOP ON THE TOUR.

4. FOR THE INFORMATION OF ADDRESSEE POSTS, THE GROUP INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING JOURNALISTS:

DENNIS MULLEN, US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT
WILTON WYNN, TIME MAGAZINE
ROBER CHRISTOPHER, EDITOR, INTERNATIONAL EDITION -NEWSWEEK
THOMAS LIPPMANN, WASHINGTON POST
KEYES BEECH, 'BCHICAGO DAILY NEWS
STEVE RATTNER, NEW YORK TIMES
PAUL BLUSTEIN, FORBES MAGAZINE
JAMES TANNER, WALL STREET HOURNAL.
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